

When Hunters Spend, Wildlife Wins

2004 Fundraising Tag Sales Results

So you want a Grizzly Island elk tag, but you haven't been lucky in the drawing? Or how about a deer hunting opportunity that doesn't limit you to only one area of the state? Well, get the checkbook and head to one of the fund-raising auctions where you can buy the hunt of a lifetime. This year, 15 hunters did exactly that, generating \$246,200 for wildlife management programs.

With the prices these tags fetch, this option is obviously not for everyone. But if you're considering an auction tag, there are some bargains—comparatively, anyway.

Although Golden Opportunity Deer tags, valid statewide from mid-July through January, typically fetch prices in the \$17,000 - \$20,000 range, they have sold for as low as \$7,000. An Open Zone Deer tag, valid for all zones and hunts within specified seasons, typically sell in the \$4,000 - \$8,000 range but have sold for as low as \$1,500. A bighorn sheep tag sold for \$110,000 in 1996, \$84,000 in 1997, and a record-breaking \$150,000 in 1998. In recent years, prices have been more in the

neighborhood of \$50,000 - \$60,000. A pronghorn antelope tag is easiest on the budget, typically fetching between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

With big game tag fund-raising auctions, only one thing is certain: the money raised directly benefits wildlife.

Hunting/conservation groups compete for the chance to sell a limited number of big game tags at their fund-raising auctions, which are usually held between February and April. Winning organizations, and the dates of the upcoming auctions, will be announced this fall.

ORGANIZATION	TYPE OF TAG(S)	BID AMOUNT
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (National)	1 bighorn sheep 1 golden opportunity deer	\$59,000 \$17,500
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation - Northern California Chapter	1 open zone deer	\$ 7,500
Safari Club International - San Francisco Bay Area Chapter	1 open zone deer	\$ 3,200
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (National)	1 Grizzly Island elk	\$25,000
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep - California Chapter	1 open zone deer	\$ 5,500
California Deer Association - Chico Chapter	1 golden opportunity deer 1 pronghorn antelope	\$20,000 \$ 7,000
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation - Central San Joaquin Chapter	1 open zone deer	\$ 5,000
California Deer Association - San Jose Chapter	1 golden opportunity deer	\$16,000
The Mule Deer Foundation - Central Coast Chapter	1 Grizzly Island elk 1 golden opportunity deer	\$27,500 \$17,000
Safari Club International - Granite Bay Chapter	1 open zone deer 1 pronghorn antelope	\$ 7,000 \$ 3,000
California Deer Association - Salinas Valley Chapter	1 Owens Valley elk 1 golden opportunity deer	\$10,000 \$16,000
2004 TOTALS		\$ 246,200
(deer = \$114,700; elk = \$62,500; pronghorn = \$10,000; bighorn sheep = \$59,000)		

Free Hunting Guides Available



For detailed information about hunting in California, the DFG has a number of free publications, available at DFG offices statewide. They can also be downloaded from the DFG Web site at: www.dfg.ca.gov. Click on the "Publications" link.

All DFG publications can be mailed to your home upon request. Contact your nearest DFG office or call (916) 653-2225.

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